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Advocate of Peace.

VOL. LXXIII.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE, 1911.

No. 6

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, PUBLISHERS,

313-314 COLORADO BLDG., WASHINGTON, D. C.

MONTHLY, ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR. TEN CENTS PER COPY.

Application made for entrance at the Washington Post Office as
Second Class Matter.

Make all checks payable to the American Peace Society. To personal
checks on Western and Southern banks add ten cents for collecting.

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The Third National Peace Congress.

The Third National American Peace Congress, held at Baltimore, May 3 to 6, was even more successful than had been anticipated. The Committee on Organization and the organizing secretary had done their work with exceptional thoroughness, and this, coupled with the enormous recent progress of the peace movement, made the Congress one of the strongest and most interesting yet held.

This convention was unique among peace congresses, for it was the first one ever held that was opened by the head of one of the great Powers of the world. Other congresses had had the expressed sympathy of rulers, as, for instance, the International Peace Congress in London, in 1908, from which King Edward VII received a representative deputation; the Congress at Rouen, in 1903, of which the President of France was the Honorary President; the Congress at Stockholm last year, to which the King of Sweden gave a memorable garden party, and the Congress at Boston in 1904, which the Secretary of State, John Hay, with the

cordial approval and sympathy of President Roosevelt, opened with a memorable address. As early as 1892 the Congress held at Berne was presided over by an ex-President of the Swiss Republic, Louis Ruchonnet. But this year, for the first time, the Chief Executive of a first-class power went in person and in an admirable speech opened a great congress of the friends of peace, while the second official in the Government, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided at the closing banquet.

Not only does this fact distinguish the Baltimore Congress beyond all others, but it marks in a peculiar way the immense advance which the cause of international peace has made in recent years. The movement for world peace is no longer restricted to the exposure and condemnation of the physical and moral horrors of war, to the preaching of international ideals, the theoretic presentation of institutions which should be substituted for the cruel and inhuman arbitrament of the sword; all this ethical, educational work—the only thing that was possible in the past—still goes on, and with a vigor, directness and effectiveness never before surpassed; but the principles and policies of the pacifists, corroborated and emphasized by all the enormous social advances of our time, have taken such wide and deep hold upon the public mind in all civilized countries that the governments themselves have become deeply impressed with the inevitableness of the early triumph of the cause and have, in their own sphere and way, entered into its active promotion. In other words, peace ideals are now far to the front in practical politics.

The speech of President Taft (which we publish in full on another page) was, from the point of view of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, admirable in every way. It was original in conception and bore the clearest marks of genuine sincerity. It was not weakened by political trimming nor warped with miserable side pleas for the sacredness and glory of war. It made one feel that the United States is adding new lustre to its fame by the advanced position which the Administration of Mr. Taft is taking in the movement for a reign of goodwill, justice and law among the nations.

The speaking in the Congress was, on the whole, of an unusually high order, some of the addresses striking strong and quite new notes. In this and our next issue we are giving our friends an opportunity to read some of these speeches for themselves. The array of speakers was most unusual. In addition to the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, there were Cardinal Gibbons, Andrew Carnegie, ex-Secretary of